

(received via e-mail)

From: carole Ehrhardt
To: <smcconnell@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 3/10/2009 9:23 AM
Subject: Support for the Rubicon Trail Cleanup and Abatement Order

I am writing to express my support for the draft Cleanup and Abatement Order issued on January 23, 2009 by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to the El Dorado County Department of Transportation. Destructive and unchecked off-road vehicle use results in ongoing resource damage on the Rubicon Trail. Actions to protect this trail are long overdue.

Off road use degrades water quality along with the flora and fauna of the area. These users care only for the thrills of off road riding and they have no knowledge of what they are doing to the areas they use. These lands belong to the public and need our help to preserve them.

I support the adoption of the Order and ask that its adoption be complemented by closure of the Rubicon Trail until such time as a full environmental review can be conducted and appropriate measures are taken to minimize impacts from future motorized use of the trail, if such use must occur.

Off-road groups argue that they can police themselves but this does not happen. There is no easy way to ensure they will do so.

I commend the Regional Board and staff for your excellent assessment of the impacts on the Rubicon from off-road vehicle use and initiating the process needed to stop this damage from continuing. I also applaud you for finally taking action -- action that is long overdue -- and ask that the draft Cleanup and Abatement Order be formally adopted. Thank you.

carole Ehrhardt